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\$2.00 incl. GST  
Publications mail agreement # 40063862

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Total 24 pages

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## Haliburton/Toronto bus route to be terminated in January

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

There will no longer be a public transportation option for those wishing to travel between Toronto and Haliburton as of Jan. 31, 2024.

TOK Coachlines has announced the cancellation of the Haliburton to Toronto route after nearly 35 years of service due to decreased ridership and increased operation costs.

"The Haliburton route has been under-performing for the last four to five years. We were losing money, but it's an essential service for people up there, so we kept it going," Ajay Mehra, chief executive officer of TOK Group.

Mehra said when COVID hit in 2020, they completely shut down the route before opening it back up three days a week.

"We started running the line three days a week in anticipation that the ridership would go back up, but we are still carrying a lot less people than we used to, and the cost of operation has gone up so much too," Mehra said. "Fuel prices, maintenance prices, everything increased significantly after the pandemic."

"Because the ridership is so low and we are losing money every day we run it, we have decided to shut it off."

The decision wasn't an easy one for the company to make, as the route is the only public transportation currently available from Haliburton to the city.

"We understand this is hard on people. Unfortunately we are losing thousands a month on this route alone, and just can't keep it going," Mehra said.

He explained the bus would need to carry over 20 passengers each time to keep up with costs.

"Many days we only have up to seven people riding on that route. We need to of course at least break even, and we haven't been doing that for quite some time," Mehra said.

The line currently runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week and stops in Haliburton, Lindsay, and Toronto.

Mehra said the busiest times for the route were long weekends, "But that's only a couple of days of the year, and we can't only run it once in a while and depend on individuals. If there is a big group of people though, they can request a charter bus from us."

Those who have bought tickets in advance can use them between now and Jan. 31 or request a full refund.

"We wanted to give all riders reasonable notice, so that's why we are running it until the end of January," Mehra said. "I wish I could keep running it, but we can't financially sustain it."

### Pride of the Red

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School junior boys volleyball team placed third at the COSSA championship tournament held on their home court on Thursday, Nov. 16. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



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# Respiratory illness season sees pre-pandemic levels

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Contrary to the much higher than usual number of hospital visits last fall, this respiratory illness season has been more typical thus far.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit's medical officer of health, said COVID-19 infection remains in the mix of influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

"Last year by this point in time ... we were seeing very, very high levels of respiratory illness already with respira-

tory season almost peaking at the end of November, early December," she told the unit's board of health when it met Nov. 16.

So far this year, Emergency Departments have seen conditions similar to the pre-pandemic levels, she said.

"It hasn't peaked yet," she said. "And likely won't peak until December and even potentially early January."

While there's been some measure of increased COVID-19 infections, Bocking said there hasn't been a significant jump in the number of influenza patients. There's been an increase in respiratory syncytial virus infections in children.

"Which is to be expected for this time of year and our landscape and geography," she said.

Congregate settings such as long-term care homes have had 22 COVID-19 outbreaks so far this fall. There's been 25 hospital admissions and four fatalities. There's only been six lab-confirmed flu cases and no hospital admissions for that illness.

That number of flu cases is likely to change, she said.

"We're still really seeing, I think, just the beginning of the influenza season as the numbers continue to increase," Bocking said.

Communities are at the stage where many people don't like to talk about COVID-19, and people would like to believe the coronavirus is behind us as the worldwide lockdown recedes deeper into the past.

But the reality is that it isn't going away.

"It's now a regular part of our respiratory viruses that will impact us and is continuing to have a significant impact on individuals, especially those people who are of advanced age," she said.

"Twenty of the 25 hospital admissions that we've seen so far are among individuals over the age of 70."

## Nelson makes it official with HHHS

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Veronica Nelson has accepted the role of president and CEO of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS); a title that will become official on Dec. 4, 2023.

Nelson assumed the role on an interim basis on June 12 of this year, following the announcement that Carolyn Plummer - former president and CEO - had stepped down, citing health concerns.

At the time of the transition, the role was that of a contentious one, with heated discussions and heightened emotions that came in light of the Minden Emergency Room closure on June 1. But Nelson jumped in with two feet; immedi-

ately offering town hall meetings across the county in an attempt to break down the walls between HHHS and the community.

Her efforts continue to be seen as she dedicates herself to changing the work environment and support system seen in HHHS, in an effort to build recruitment opportunities, and support the needs of Haliburton County.

Nelson originally hails from Ross Memorial Hospital, and departs after nearly 24 years of service there. "This moment in my career is bittersweet. I wish nothing but the absolute best to my RMH family and look forward to continued collaboration with them," Nelson said in a press release when her new role was announced.

## Winter weather could mean no-bus days and school closures

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Even a whisper of poor weather can skuttle a school day.

School boards must make early decisions on whether the winter weather is hazardous enough to warrant pulling buses off the roads. Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has a procedure and communication channels for parents on days of inclement weather.

Transportation may be cancelled during inclement weather or due to the forecast of poor or deteriorating road conditions.

Regions that fall under the umbrella of the TLDSB include City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County, and the District Municipality of Muskoka.

Each of those geographical regions is assessed independently.

The decision whether transportation will be cancelled is made in consultation with transportation operators as per existing road conditions, weather conditions

as reported by Environment Canada, and other pertinent information.

If transportation is canceled due to poor weather, schools within the affected region of the TLDSB will remain open. Parents and guardians are responsible for transportation of their students who attend school on inclement weather days.

Drop-off and pick-up must occur in alignment with the regular school day start and end times.

In rare circumstances where extreme weather or other facility situations require a school or multiple schools to be closed, the TLDSB community will be notified as soon as possible via the usual communication channels mentioned below.

Those channels include social media by way of X/Twitter (@TLDSB), Facebook (@TLDSB), and Instagram (@trillium\_lakelands\_dsb); the TLDSB website (tldsb.ca); www.mybustoschool.ca; and local news/radio stations.

Parents and guardians with any further questions can contact the child's school directly.

## County clarifies Official Plan to benefit residential builds

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County council gave the nod to changes to its Official Plan.

Stephen Stone, the county's planning director, told council during its regular meeting Nov. 8 that the amendments and revisions will make it easier for residential development to happen.

The changes to the Official Plan that will allow for additional residential units will serve to spur the four lower tier municipalities to do make the same alterations to their respective plans.

More importantly, Stone said, municipalities will revise zoning legislation to stimulate residential development.

"This is exciting," he said.

Changes to the Planning Act to sup-

port gentle intensification in existing residential areas came into force in 2022. This resulted in an updated "additional residential unit" framework which supersedes local official plans and zoning provincewide on any parcel of land where residential uses are permitted in settlement areas with full municipal water and sewage services.

The changes also prohibited municipalities from enforcing minimum unit sizes and from requiring more than one parking space for units.

The amendment will include changes to verbiage. References to "second units" will simply be replaced with the phrase "additional residential units."

Further changes to wording will clarify the intent of the policy, which is to ensure that non-compatible land uses are not located in the rural fringe area adjacent to settlement areas.



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# 'Very much needed'; Heat Bank warms up for winter months

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

It's that time of year again. The days and nights are getting colder, and the household needs begin to change. This is when the Heat Bank becomes particularly important. "We've seen a 27 per cent increase in households needing our help," said Rachel Gillooly, the client services and volunteer coordinator for the Central Food Network. "That's 220 calls for assistance, and nearly 340 people."

With the median home energy annual cost nearing \$4,000, options for heating are becoming increasingly more challenging.

Heat Bank Haliburton County is a program of Central Food Network, a local non-profit. The organization provides free and confidential support for local households who are struggling to keep their heat and lights on. It is confirmed that nearly 50 per cent of individuals in Haliburton County are living in energy poverty, with over ten per cent of their income going towards home energy.

Through offering grants, financial assistance, support, and materials for heating the home, the Heat Bank fills the gaps for some of these needs in the community. "Any household in the county facing a firewood emergency is eligible for one truckload of firewood," said Gillooly. "We don't need proof of income to release the first load. We can help with an additional two truckloads for households with low income."

One of the means that the Heat Bank has the funds to support these families



This year's in-person portion of the annual Heat Bank Auction at Rhubarb Restaurant is now sold out, but the online version is live and active leading up to the event, with all proceeds going right back into the community. /Photo submitted

is through their annual Heat Bank auction, hosted through Rhubarb Restaurant. "Last year we raised over \$33,000," said Gillooly, "and it would be great to raise more than that this year."

With nearly 100 items up for auction, the hybrid online/in-person auction features local artisans, foods, holiday gifts, gift certificates, and experiences. "The timing for this auction is great," said Gillooly, "between now and the end of

December, there are a lot of holidays coming up, so a great time to purchase gifts."

The auction is split into two parts: the silent, online portion, which runs until the evening of Nov. 26, followed by the live auction portion on the same evening. At this point, the dinner and live auction portion are entirely sold out, but the online auction is still available for individuals to support, and at the time of publication, has raised over \$10,000.

While the need for energy support is high in the area, Gillooly notes that none of this would be possible without the community partners along the way; sponsors, donors, and Rhubarb Restaurant. "We couldn't provide these services without the generous support from community members of Haliburton County," said Gillooly.

Visit [app.galabid.com/heatbank23](http://app.galabid.com/heatbank23) items for the full list of auction items.

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**Holiday cheer**

The Royal Canadian Legion branch 129 Ladies Auxiliary hosted a Christmas Craft Sale on Saturday, Nov. 18 featuring items created by over 30 artists. Russell Whetstone and members of the Eagle Lake Women's Society Nancy McLuskey and Rosie DuPont smile for a photo at their booth. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Sue Newby from Maple Lake Designs had her hand-knitted items on display on Saturday at the Haliburton Legion.



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# County awards records management contract

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Benefits abound with sound management of records and documents.

Mike March, Haliburton County's information technology director, laid out some of those benefits during the upper tier council's regular meeting Nov. 8.

The road toward improving records management hasn't been a short jaunt.

In 2019, the county was granted \$725,000 through the Municipal Modernization Fund (MMF) to be spent on projects that improved staff and organizational efficiency.

In October 2021, the previous county council approved allocating \$100,000 of the MMF to fund an electronic document and records management solution (EDRMS).

The suggestion to implement an EDRMS was rooted in the Haliburton joint service delivery review (SDR). Strategy Corp identified in the SDR report that a records management project could be worked on collaboratively by the county and four municipalities.

The county and four municipal CAO's agreed to collaborate on an EDRMS implementation project as all five organizations have identified records management as an area that requires improvement.

Like past projects of similar scope, the county would pay 50 per cent towards a new EDRMS system, and the remaining 50 per cent would be split between the four municipalities.

The contract for the new system was awarded to StoneShare, a company that has implemented record management systems in 41 other Ontario municipalities. The EDRMS will cost \$69,095. The county

will pay \$34,547 of the previously budgeted \$100,000 for the project.

As the contract came in under budget, March suggested council keep the remaining \$65,452 be kept in the IT budget and carried over to next year and possibly 2025. The remainder will cover software licenses, staff training, and StoneShare support.

Strategy Corp estimated that the county and four municipalities could realize as much as \$80,000 annually by reducing the reliance on paper records.

Better management and storage of records will assist in maintaining current and future municipal knowledge, history, as well as protect corporate records having long-term or permanent value.

The EDRMS will reduce exposure to legal action resulting from misfiled or misplaced, premature destruction or excessive retention of records.

The new system will curb record duplication and ensure proper record disposal as per the county's Records Retention Bylaw.

The EDRMS will reduce the growing IT storage requirements and associated costs of storing many years' worth of redundant files.

Using the Ontario Municipal Records Management System classification system, the EDRMS will provide a standard method of file management that will remain consistent through the change in staff or management.

The protection of private and confidential information will be ensured and clearly demonstrated to judicial and legislative authorities that every reasonable effort is being made to both retain and dispose of records in accordance with legislative requirements.

March said the records management

system will reduce the time it takes staff to locate files. That will speed up completion of any freedom of information requests.

"As well as reducing risks of misfiled records, premature destruction of records, as well as excessive retention of records," he said.

"Are we looking to take any of our old

paper records and digitize them and put them through into this system?" said Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills.

"The main scope of the project is to deal with our electronic files," March said. Migrating the paper files may take place in the future.

## Lake inaccessible to HE woman

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

But for a railing on a Jordan Lake dock, Beata Serwin would be able to enjoy all the recreational benefits of living metres from that body of water.

Serwin, who has mobility issues, is a Highland Grove resident who lives mere metres away from the Hagen Road public access point to Jordan Lake. She told Highlands East council when it met Nov. 14 that she can't access the lake, despite her proximity to the waterfront.

Council agreed to receive her presentation as information.

"I am a person with a mobility disability and I am unable to get into or disembark from our canoe or boat to get back onto the shore safely," she said. "This is because there is no dock with a railing to support myself and overcome my disability."

She said she previously explained her plight to township council.

Serwin cites the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act: "Recognizing the history of discrimination against persons with disabilities in Ontario, the purpose of this Act is to benefit all Ontarians by devel-

oping, implementing, and enforcing accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures, and premises on or before Jan. 1, 2025."

As per the legislation's Design of Public Spaces Standard, she said all public areas must be made fully accessible.

"This access point, which I see out of my window, is not accessible to me to boat or canoe on and the lack of a dock with railing is a barrier to me," she said.

Serwin offered to provide any notes from physicians to confirm her disability, should the municipality require them.

She said she contacted the provincial Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to ask if she was correct to be asking for such assistance from the municipality.

The ministry's response was assurance that the township should find "creative and helpful solutions" to provide access, she said.

"I strongly believe that there is a way to find a solution to the presented problem," Serwin said. "I just need help to overcome my disability."



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# points of view



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146 Highland Street, P.O. Box 360,  
Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0  
• 705-457-1037 • Fax 705-457-3275  
Published by White Pine Media Corp



**DAVID ZILSTRA**  
Publisher and Ad Director, ext. 37,  
david.zilstra@gmail.com

**VIVIAN COLLINGS**, Editor  
ext. 39, vivian@haliburtonpress.com

**JENNIFER MCEATHRON**, Admin  
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

**DEBBIE COMER**, Circulation  
debbie@haliburtonpress.com

**JAMES MATTHEWS**,  
Local Journalism  
Initiative Reporter  
james@haliburtonpress.com

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**, Reporter  
ext. 38, emily@haliburtonpress.com

**BRITNEY PAGLIUCA**, Reporter  
britneyp@haliburtonpress.com

**KAREN LONDON**,  
Production Co-ordinator  
karen@haliburtonpress.com

**STACEY POTATIVO**, Production

**REED SACHAROFF**, Production

**LAURA SMITH**, Sales  
laura@haliburtonpress.com

**PAUL BANELOPOULOS**, Sales  
paul@haliburtonpress.com

**INSIDE SALES**  
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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir



## What's the opposite of progress?

**R**EGRESSION, I suppose. This is one of those times where the plotline of *Footloose* doesn't seem ridiculous.

We may not have laws against dancing, but a rural town with a significant event that brings us back in time? Absolutely.

The announcement from TOK Coachlines last week came as a shock to many.

For nearly 35 years, a big coach bus in town was part of the norm, dropping off passengers from Toronto and Lindsay and picking more up from the MacEwen gas station on Highland Street.

It seems that COVID-19 has claimed another victim.

The route was shut down for an extended period of time during the pandemic, and was opened back up three days a week instead of seven.

Even then, limited passengers each ride hasn't been nearly enough to break even with the costs to keep the bus on the roads.

They've decided to shut down the route completely, permanently.

It's upsetting, to say the least.

We can't blame the private bus line for doing what they see is the only option.

They're a drop in the bucket full of Canadian businesses affected by the three-year pandemic.

I've had a few Haliburton residents stop to talk to me about their concern.

With this bus route being the only public transportation option to the big city, lots feel like our little town has been isolated and cut off from cut off from the "outside world".

The biggest concern is for essential services.

One resident said many who don't have access to a vehicle use the bus

regularly for medical appointments in Toronto.

She's concerned this will put an even bigger strain on Haliburton Highlands Health Services transportation services.

One ER down and now the bus route, too.

"Even though I've been lucky enough to not have to use it, I always knew the bus was there if I needed to make it to the city for my health. I think a lot of people felt that way," said Steve Hill from the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

I couldn't help but think about when the CN railway stopped carrying passengers to Haliburton in the late 70s.

Hill said it was probable that Haliburton residents felt a sentimental attachment to that train, the one that perhaps brought their ancestors to town in the first place.

"People were likely upset because it was something we always had, our link to the outside world," Hill said.

It was only about a decade later that the bus came to town, replacing the locomotive's role as a public transportation system.

So what now?

What happens to residents without access to a vehicle who need to make trips to the city?

Will another service come in to fill the gap?

For now, I know the community will pull together to help wherever they can.

Check on your neighbours. Carpool when you can.

Offer rides when you have space.

Who knows, maybe Santa will send the Polar Express to Haliburton this Christmas.



vivian collings

## Editorial



A November doe.

by Tammy Nash

## Haliburton angels

**J**OHN LENNON said, "We can't help everyone, but we can help someone."

In these challenging times in the world we are living with wars, poverty, climate change, artificial intelligence, discrimination, an overwhelmed health care system, addictions, homelessness etc., there is a lot going on, and it is easy to wake up and turn on the news and feel hopeless, worried, depressed and anxious, or we can choose to choose to place our attention elsewhere. We can acknowledge there are challenges world wide, and challenges on our front door.

And while most of us can't do alot about the war in the Middle East or the Ukraine, what we can do is get involved with something right in front of our noses and help out. And it will make us feel better. We can each sew little seeds of hope in our own community through our work and volunteering or by being a good parent or grandparent or friend. There are a million ways to do this.

Right now people are donating and raising funds for the Heat Bank. Groups are clearing trails to get ready for our ski season. Others are rehearsing for upcoming Christmas concerts which will lift everyone's spirits. Some are volunteering at our local schools or for our local land trusts.

I know people who make soup for their neighbours on a regular basis. Others share their firewood. People are making a difference every day in small and significant ways in their own communities. My family has recently been the recipient of two angels that have come into our lives to support my dad John, who turned 95 last week.

I am like one big bubble of gratitude when they come because by doing their work, they are helping our whole family in ways I can't put into words in this article. One of the things I love about

these angels is that I have known them from a distance for pretty much their whole lives. Jim taught them, and they are both graduates of our Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

Abby Gordon is 23 years old, was born in Australia, but pretty much grew up in Haliburton. She started her own business called Karinya which is an Australian Aboriginal word that can be translated to "a happy and peaceful home." Abby works with seniors and people with special needs.

I can tell you that she brings peace and joy with her when she comes to help my dad. He loves her. When she is at my parents' place, I can overhear her chit chatting with both of my parents. She is laughing and telling them stories and answering their many questions about her life.

She is a bright spot in their week, every week. And that helps Jim and I so much. Abby sews little seeds of compassion, caring, warmth, friendliness with every visit. We are all uplifted by her. Thank you, Abby!

Our second angel is Courtney Bishop, who is a mama, wife, daughter, mother in law, sister, friend and a fantastic nurse who is on top of her game! Courtney has been coming to work with my dad who has leg issues and is in pain. She is so bright and smart and gets things done.

She doesn't judge his beliefs, and she gives him so much confidence in his body with every visit. And again, by her sewing her seeds of caring, kindness, and attention she uplifts our whole family. And when I feel uplifted I can go and teach my yoga classes which inspire me, and hopefully the people who attend. And the ripples expand from there. We all have the capacity to be an angel for someone.

Thank you, Courtney.

Tales from the great



lynda shadbolt

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# points of view

## A slice of my life

**I**N MY short career as an old man, I have pretty well mastered the standard repertoire of old man skills. I can drive for miles with my right hand turn signal on. I have no fear of tucking in a shirt. And I wouldn't ask for directions if I was in a mystical labyrinth with a minotaur. In fact, I'd probably give the minotaur a piece of my mind, if he tried to pull anything fast on me.

But, the other day, I think I upped my game and rose to a whole other level.

It happened in the grocery store – as many old man firsts do.

Jenn said we needed potatoes and some gravy mix for a venison roast I was cooking up, so I decided that an excursion into the outside world might be just what the doctor ordered.

After all, there's nothing like a grocery store to test an old fellow's blood pressure.

Also, these days, a trip to the grocery store provides plenty of opportunity to practice uttering old man observations aloud such as, "I guess, I'm going to have to take out a loan to buy this broccoli" or "This steak cost as much as my first car."

The grocery store is also a place where people flock, presumably to hear stories of the good old days and the wisdom earned in the days when hats were pointed forward and people blushed when someone told them their underpants were showing.

So anyway, where was I? Oh yeah, taking it up another level.

I had just finished paying a princely fee for a bag of spuds and gravy mix when I stepped out towards the sliding doors – which with all this AI technology – I no longer trust.

At the same time, a young lady at the next cash register finished paying and when she stepped out, we almost collided. And she politely apologized, though there was no reason to.

That's when it happened.

I said the most old man thing I have said to date.

"I guess I almost got a pie in the face huh?" I said, and then we both laughed. Me, because my generation was programmed to find a pie in the face funny. She, because her parents taught her to respect her elders, no matter how strange.

Immediately after that though, I looked down and noted that though I thought she was carrying a pie, she was not. In fact, I think she was carrying a flat Styrofoam container of meat. And she looked down and, I believe, observed that I was carrying potatoes and gravy mix.

Suddenly and simultaneously, we both realized that there was no pie in the equation. So nothing I said made any sense at all.

Things immediately got awkward.

I'm guessing she was thinking, "I'm just going to leave quickly and not embarrass the old fellow by pointing out the obvious. He's obviously got enough issues to deal with."

On the other hand, my immediate thought was to chase her into the parking lot and explain that I thought she was carrying a pie – hence the hilarious comment.

Fortunately, Jenn has taught me that sometimes it is best to ignore your immediate thought, and just accept the loss. That way you don't make a bigger deal out of things than you need to.

In this case, I think that was wise.

Why is this next level?

Well, I'm guessing this is how you become known as a crusty old man.



steve  
galea

## Loon Tales

## The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

# Too many hurdles are hobbling small businesses in Canada

**I**HAVE SPENT most of my business career owning and managing large corporations, including Magna International Inc., one of the world's largest auto parts suppliers.

Today, however, I'm once again a small business owner, with start-up businesses in the organic food and electric vehicle industries.

So even though I never forgot what it was like to own a small business when I first started out back in the mid-1950s, I'm discovering some of the hurdles that many small business owners go through today.

And from what I can see, it's much more difficult to make a go of it nowadays than it was decades ago.

A number of reports also confirm that the business climate in Canada is nowhere near as friendly or as easy as it used to be.

The World Bank Doing Business Index is a prime example. The index assesses various aspects of doing business, including dealing with permits, obtaining credit and paying taxes. When the index was first established in 2007, Canada was ranked 4th in the world in terms of the ease of doing business. In the latest ranking conducted by the World Bank, Canada has plunged to 23rd overall.

But even without these studies and reports, many small business owners will say the same thing: it's becoming increasingly difficult to run a business with all of the many hurdles that are placed in their way.

One of these hurdles is the permit process – everything from filling out long and confusing applications and forms to the long wait times small businesses have to tolerate before getting various permit approvals.

But even after that, small businesses then have to endure further waits for various inspections. And if that weren't enough, there's also zoning requirements, sign per-

mits and a whole batch of other licenses and approvals – all of which also come with a fee attached.

All of these bureaucratic delays and fees hobble small businesses at the crucial point where they trying to get up and running and the demands on their time and money are greatest.

The key point is that many small business owners are hurting and nothing is being done to help them stay afloat. An economic charter would provide them with the life-line they need to flourish and thrive.

In this column, I've proposed that Canada

adopt a national Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities to reinvigorate our economy and give Canadians greater freedom and control when it comes to their economic future – including our small business owners and entrepreneurs.

One of the foremost principles in the economic charter is the removal of business income tax on any small business with fewer than 300 employees and the reduction of red tape and regulations that are strangling small businesses and hindering their

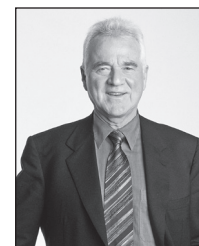
ability to grow.

I'm willing to meet with any business group that would like to learn more about the economic charter and how it could help Canada's small businesses. Feel free to reach out and email me at [info@economic-charter.ca](mailto:info@economic-charter.ca). Or to learn more about the economic charter, please visit: [www.economic-charter.ca](http://www.economic-charter.ca).

Excessive regulations and stifling rates of taxation are the one-two punch knocking out many of Canada's small businesses. It's time we did something about it.

### Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. [fstronachlpc@gmail.com](mailto:fstronachlpc@gmail.com)



frank  
stronach

## Principles



## O Christmas Tree

Members of the Dysart Fire Department collected Haliburton's town Christmas tree on Sunday, Nov. 19 donated by Vince and Barb Hammond from Fort Irwin Cottage and Garden Centre to bring to its place on Highland Street in front of the Village Barn. /Submitted





## pic of the past

This week's pic of the past is a photo of Betty Autin's mother Stella Walker, right, at her first job. She helped May Gartshore, left, cook at Gartshore's Logging Mill on Barry Line. The man in the centre was May's husband. Stella will be 90 on Nov. 14, so the photo was probably taken in the late 1930s sometime. /FILE



Left, Rails End Gallery volunteer Toby, left, and gallery curator Laurie Jones, right, stop for a photo during the opening of Art Heaven on Friday, Nov. 17. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff



Below, attendees of Art Heaven browse through the selection of art during the exhibit opening.

# Opening night of The Rails End Gallery's Art Heaven

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

On Nov. 17, Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre celebrated the opening night of Art Heaven, an art show and sale that features recycled and affordably priced original art pieces.

Curator Laurie Jones stated that the show's basic principle and the gallery's mission is to make art accessible to all. "We have a responsibility to keep art alive in Haliburton," Jones said. The Rails End Gallery can bring art into many more homes through Art Heaven with numerous pieces being priced under 25 dollars.

Some of the artwork for sale includes framed oil paintings, pottery, stained glass, multimedia sculptures, cultural pieces and more.

The exhibit was made possible by donors who gifted original art to the gal-

lery for the purpose of displaying it at Art Heaven and reselling it at an affordable price. "Art is meant and deserves to be loved," Jones said. In this way, the art is not only reused, but rehomed into a space where it has a new opportunity to be seen and appreciated.

All proceeds from the exhibit will help the gallery fund future exhibits, programs and demonstrations. "One sign of a healthy community is to have institutions like public art galleries," Jones said, "they are such an important part of community engagement." Events like Art Heaven enable the Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre to continue using their space to share local art and art education, support local artists and foster an appreciation for art.

The event will continue until Dec. 16 during regular gallery hours – Wednesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Aging Together as Community, holiday social and lunch

Saturday Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Haliburton United Church. 'Stay Upright and Be Active.'

Presenters: Taoist Tai Chi and its benefits; Sit to Fit Bodies, Georgia Shank, Activity: A Part of You; BEHealth, Emily Clarke, Reg. Kinesiologist- Neuroplasticity/Movement as Medicine and Minds in Motion, Alzheimer's Society, Jennifer

Stubbert and Melissa Foster, a social, recreation program that incorporates physical and mental stimulation, for those with memory loss and their care partners.

RSVP [agingtogetherhc@gmail.com](mailto:agingtogetherhc@gmail.com) or call 705-457-6579 by Monday, Nov. 27.

Helpful Tips for Seniors, an ATAC booklet, will also be launched on Dec. 2.

Submitted

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT!**

**Haliburton Rotary Community**

**Christmas**

**& Skating Party**

**Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Bring the Whole Family for an Evening of Festive Fun!**

\* Skating \* Music \* Hot Chocolate \* Pizza & Treats \* Games \* Face Painting

\* Presents for all the kids! \* Bring your camera for a picture with Santa!

**AJ LaRue Arena, Haliburton:**

**SKATING: 5pm - 7pm**

**Royal Canadian Legion, Haliburton:**

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

**+ Face Painting**

**6pm - 7pm**

**PIZZA & GOODIES:**

**6pm - 8pm**

**VISIT SANTA:**

**7pm - 8pm**

**Enter to Win**

**1 of 6 Turkeys!**

**Draw to be held**

**at 7:30 pm**

**SPONSORED BY: THE ROTARY CLUB OF HALIBURTON**





# Canoe FM's Dave Allen moves on

JERELYN CRADEN

*Special to the Echo*

You may recognize Dave Allen's dulcet tones on local radio commercials. Or, enjoy the Canoe FM pen he gave you. Or his award-winning beer chili recipe that he tucked inside your hand. Some say Allen is the voice of Haliburton County. He certainly is Canoe FM's good-will ambassador, driving around all these years in his Canoe FM mobile, building career-long relationships with local business owners, and helping new businesses get off the ground. He's a guy who makes it look easy, while behind the scenes, has worked 24/7 to help build the station from a start-up dream to its present-day status as award-winning and financially stable. Now that he's moving on, Allen shares memories as both the "advertising guy" and beyond-the-call volunteer.

Jim Frost, past president of the Haliburton & District Lions Club and major community volunteer had this to say: "Dave has been a godsend to Canoe FM, the way

he works and deals with people. He does such a great job getting advertisers. In my work with the Lions Club, dealing with events like the Santa Claus Parade and the BIA, I meet a lot of people and they all talk very highly of Dave. Canoe has been lucky to have him."

Frost also spoke of Allen's volunteerism. "It was excellent when Dave entered the parade on behalf of Canoe driving his van with a canoe on top and Gerald McKnight riding shotgun." He added, "Any meeting I've been to where there's been an auditor or an accountant talking about Canoe's books, they have all said what terrific financial condition Canoe is in. They have to realize they're in that position, so much because of what Dave has done."

Born in Montreal, Allen moved to Toronto in 1971 and spent the next 30 years in the hospitality industry. "My dad and I used to go hunting and fishing every year in the Laurentians, and when I first experienced the Haliburton Highlands in the 80s, it was like coming home."

In 2002, the Highlands became Allen's home. "One day, I'm knee deep in a trench installing a heat line

when I get a call from Don Cameron, co-founder of Canoe FM. He asks if I'm still interested in the sales position that I had applied for months earlier. I race over there, walk into the station caked in mud, and see astonishment written all over the faces of Don and his two co-founders, Dave Sovereign and Jack Hewitt. After sharing my previous sales background in the hospitality industry, they say to me, 'If you have any other clothes, you're hired!'"

Allen shows me a photo of Jack Lowe. "In the early days, Jack was our extraordinary volunteer engineer and was instrumental in getting the station used broadcasting equipment so we could get on the air. He had this fear about running into a bear, so I often had to escort him to the tower in Eagle Lake when there was a technical problem. And Don Cameron would tag me to go to the tower with him when there was dead air, once at four in the morning. We did what we had to do, like tending to a baby. The station was our baby."

Always looking for ways to better promote the station, Allen thought how great it would be for its phone

see COLLEAGUES page 10

## Highlands Wind Symphony

### 2023 Christmas Concert

Saturday Dec. 2 at 2:00 pm

Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

Adults \$15 / Family \$30



Featuring:

Highlands Wind Symphony

Highlands Swing Band with vocalist Jerelyn Craden

Tickets at Masters Bookstore in Haliburton, or Minden Pharmasave

Call or text (705) 457-0455 for more info

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# Colleagues commend Allen for years of dedication to Canoe FM

from page 9

number to be the same as its on-air call numbers: 100.9. “So, I dialed, 705-457-1009 and a fellow answered and said we could have the number for 109 cases of beer. Fortunately, I persisted and not long afterwards discovered that the line had been disconnected which we immediately obtained.”

When Canoe started a popular segment called Pet Detective that reunited owners with their lost pets, Allen had three cocker spaniels of his own who would run off on a regular basis. He said, “Long time on-air host, Paul Cameron, remarked on one of his Sunday afternoon shows, after I called asking listeners to keep an eye out for my dogs: ‘Dave, why don’t you just record this message so we can play it every weekend?’”

Ten volunteer presidents and revolving boards later, Allen feels especially grateful to stalwart Canoe volunteer, Mike Jaycock. “With a radio and advertising background, Mike helped me in many respects, particularly with writing great scripts which enabled me to spend more time on sales.”

One of Allen’s favourite volunteer activities was to help set up Jaycock’s version of Garrison Keillor’s, “A Prairie Home Companion” – “The Highlands Radio Almanac” featuring local musical talent and personalities, broadcast from all four corners of the county, which put Canoe FM on the map in the summer of 2007.

Whatever is on Allen’s horizon, it is with utmost certainty that his shoes at Canoe FM will be very hard to fill. Terry Gregorini, owner of Canadian Tire in Minden, will attest to that: “I’ve been involved with local advertising for nearly twenty years and by far, Dave Allen has been the best and most consistent provider of such services which led to (C.T.) being a major sponsor for Canoe FM’s annual radiothon fundraiser for the past several years.”



Dave Allen, longstanding sales representative with Canoe FM, has decided to retire from his role. /Photo by Jerelyn Craden

## Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2023

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders’ Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren’t sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

**Option 1:** Call - text 705-457-6901, email [info@hchba.ca](mailto:info@hchba.ca) in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

**Option 2:** Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.

### Partners:



Haliburton Chrysler – 13533 Highway 118

Ridgewood Ford – 12560 Highway 35



Ridgewood Ford Sales

### Other locations in Minden and Haliburton:

Cordell Carpet, Haliburton Home Hardware, Minden Home Hardware,  
Hudson Henderson Insurance Broker Haliburton/Minden,  
CIBC Minden, Ommh, Minden Post Office, TD Bank Minden  
Emmerson Lumber Ltd - Maple Ave.  
Kohara & Co - Industrial Park Rd.  
Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC

Drop off for the 4C’s in Haliburton is Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and other location Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

### HCHBA Keystone Sponsors



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## Black Friday Blow Out on Recliners!

Friday, November 24th &  
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At a CrossRoads

CrossRoads, a special joint performance from Ryan Van Lee, the Good Brothers, and Marshall Dane, took place at the Music Room in Haliburton in partnership with CMA Ontario on Saturday, Nov. 18. The musicians and songwriters played music, spoke about Canada's country music scene and shared personal stories. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



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**Auditions for  
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Spring 2024 Show!**

**Agatha Christie's  
A Murder is Announced**  
*Directed by Jack Brezina*

**Thursday, November 30th at 7pm and  
Sunday, December 3rd at 2pm**

*Haliburton Highlands Museum*

**Performances:** April 3rd – 6th at the  
Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

**(Rehearsals will begin in January)**  
**Wide range of roles available – no previous theatre  
experience required!**

**For more information or to book your spot, email:  
highlandstheatrelive@gmail.com**

# Country Pickins

## Wall to Wall

### Black Friday Sale

#### All Week until Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>

163 Highland St., Haliburton • 705-457-2726



**HSE 2024**  
Highlands Summer Festival

Live Theatre!

**\$175**  
to see all  
five shows

**2024 Season Passes Now Available**  
Sale Ends January 31

Just in time  
for gift giving!

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>**



Sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal

Six awkward spelling champions learn that winning (and losing) isn't everything in this delightful musical. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** is a delightful hive of comedic and musical genius.

Opens July 2 through to July 11 for nine performances, including two matinees.

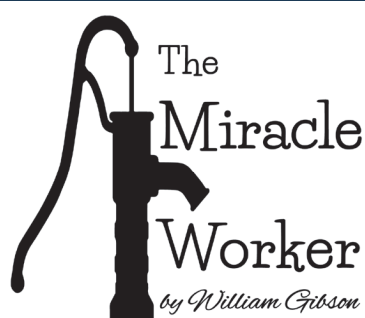
**July 28<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>**



Sarah, a turkey farmer, has split up with her husband and moved in with her mom, Gail, a beekeeper. Add in Earl, the flirty neighbour, and Ben, an eager young graduate student, and you have the perfect breeding ground for unlikely attractions. Set in adjoining bedrooms, **The Birds and the Bees** is a Canadian comedy about love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys.

Six performances from July 28 to August 2.  
(**The Birds & The Bees** contains mature content and discussions of sex.)

**July 15<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>**



This Tony Award-winning play is the story of Annie Sullivan and her student, Helen Keller, who lost her sight and hearing at the age of 19 months. With compassion, humour and dramatic tension, **The Miracle Worker** explores the volatile relationship between a lonely teacher and her headstrong charge.

**August 4<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>**



Back by popular demand, Highland Summer Festival presents Leisa Way and her Wayward Wind Band with another outstanding concert, **Opry Gold**. To share the Grand Ol' Opry's history is to share the story of Country Music.

Leisa Way and her phenomenally talented band have brought audiences many great shows, and this latest concert raises the roof with the hottest country songs from the last few decades. Sing-a-long to Johnny Cash, Shania Twain, Vince Gill, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Lady Antebellum, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton, Charlie Daniels, Zac Brown Band, Willie Nelson, Tammy Wynette, George Jones, Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Glen Campbell, Taylor Swift, Darius Rucker, Kenny Chesney, Gretchen Wilson, George Strait, Roger Miller, Flatt & Scruggs, Ricky Scaggs, Hank Snow, Roy Acuff, Alan Jackson, and more!

Five performances starting August 4 to August 8.

**July 24<sup>th</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>**



Highlands Summer Festival is delighted to present **The Good Lovelies**, a Canadian folk/country harmony trio, consisting of Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough and Sue Passmore. At their core they can be described as a country/folk trio, with tinges of pop, roots, jazz and sometimes hip-hop mixed in.

The group's three members, Brooks from Whitby, Ough from Port Hope and Passmore from Cobourg, were all performing as solo artists in the Toronto area when they came together in 2006 to perform at a Christmas concert at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. The three subsequently decided to continue working together, releasing their debut EP, Oh My, in 2007. Since then, they have released nine LPs including the latest We Will Never Be The Same in 2023. In 2018, they performed at Massey Hall in Toronto and were nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award. The trio is on stage for three performances, July 24, 25 and a matinee 26.



**Purchase your  
Season Passes  
online at:**  
[highlandsummerfestival.on.ca](http://highlandsummerfestival.on.ca)

**or by phone:**  
**705-457-9933 or**  
**855-457-9933**

*Do something dramatic this summer*



# Council allows Huskies to install goal review cameras

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minden's SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena will have a bird's eye view of inside-the-crease action during Haliburton County Huskies hockey games.

Candace McGuigan, the township's parks, recreation, and facilities manager, said during council's regular meeting Nov. 9 that the bench boss of the local Ontario Junior Hockey League contingent would like to install goal review cameras

in the rafters at the arena.

In a letter to municipal staff, Ryan Ramsay, the town's head coach and general manager, said the goal review cameras will be installed in the rafters above each net.

Footage from the cameras will be accessible by two tablets during Huskies games, one on the Haliburton Huskies bench and the second tablet in the timekeepers' box for referees to review.

The league mandates any team playing within the OJHL have video goal review cameras installed from the rafters at both

goal nets above the playing ice surface.

Tablets will be password locked and locked in the Huskies' general manager's office after games. The cameras will be shut off after games.

McGuigan said the team will cover the cost of the cameras and take care of their installation.

Further, she said, the township will be named as additionally insured in contractors' \$5-million insurance policy.

As the goal review system will not be used for public surveillance, the Township of Minden Hills Video Surveillance

policy will not come into effect.

"But the township would need to have the right to review the camera and the footage at any time to confirm that the cameras are being shut off and they're only being used to the intended purpose of goal review during game time," McGuigan said.

She said the team's contractors will have to work around any scheduled events at the arena to install the cameras.

"So there's isn't any concerns from the Community Services Department team (about) installation," she said.



## Home win

The Haliburton County Huskies stand for the national anthem before their game against the North York Rangers at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Saturday, Nov. 18. The Huskies won the game 5-1. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



## Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,  
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
Telephone: (705) 457-1740  
Email: [info@dysartetel.ca](mailto:info@dysartetel.ca)  
Website: [www.dysartetel.ca](http://www.dysartetel.ca)

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 2023  
TIME: 9:05 AM  
LOCATION: TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE. 135 MAPLE AVENUE, HALIBURTON, ONTARIO AND IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT USING ZOOM

#### Applications:

Lands of Casey's Water Well and Geothermal Inc.  
(File Nos.: D08-OP-2023-005 and D14-ZB-2023-007):

#### • Purpose and Effect:

• **Application to amend the Official Plan:** The proposed amendment is to appropriately designate the property for the existing use and recognize the existing lot frontage. The amendment would change the designation on the subject property from Mineral Aggregate Resources Overlay to Employment Overlay Area which is within the *Rural Areas*.

• **Application to amend the Zoning By-law:** The proposed by-law would rezone the subject property from Extractive Industrial (MX) zone to *General Industrial – XX (M-XX)* exception zone. Site specific zone provisions will be included to properly regulate the development of the land and recognize the existing use of the subject property, building setbacks, and lot frontage.

The subject property is designated as Extractive Industrial Overlay within the Rural Areas of the Official Plan of the Municipality of Dysart et al.

• This is a concurrent public meeting with respect to the proposed official plan amendment and the proposed zoning by-law amendment so that all relevant information is considered.

• **Location:** legally Part Lot 8 and 9 Concession 5, Part 5, Plan 19R5498, Parts 3 & 11, Plan 19R8973, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Municipal Clerk at [mbishop@dysartetel.ca](mailto:mbishop@dysartetel.ca).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS:** Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M., Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at [korsan@dysartetel.ca](mailto:korsan@dysartetel.ca).

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 21st th day of November 2023.

Kris Orsan, CPT,  
Manager of Planning  
Planning and Land Information  
Municipality of Dysart et al  
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0  
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626  
E-mail: [korsan@dysartetel.ca](mailto:korsan@dysartetel.ca)

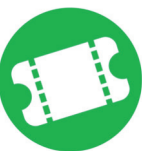
## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle during the holiday season

Did you know? Household waste can increase more than 25% during the holiday season. With all the shopping and gift wrapping, there can be a lot of waste. Reduce, reuse and recycle this season!



### Shopping

- \*Whenever possible, support local retailers and businesses.
- \*Bring your own reusable bag when shopping.
- \*Consider purchasing vintage or upcycled items.
- \*If buying online: cardboard shipping boxes and brown kraft paper go in your Recycling for Papers, while envelopes padded with plastic, bubble wrap, air filled cushions, plastic mailing bags and pouches go in your Garbage.



### Waste-less Gifts

- \*Consider giving "waste-less gifts": create experiences and memories, and not more "stuff":
  - Tickets to see theatre, dance, music, or opera.
  - Gift certificates for spa services, a weekend away at a local resort, dog sledding, snowmobiling, ATV trips, ski passes, boat cruises, etc.
- \*Purchase arts and crafts from a local artisan or gallery.
- \*Donate to a local charity or non-profit.



### Wrap It Up

- \*Use an alternative to traditional holiday wrapping paper.
- \*Put presents in a reusable gift bag, a reusable piece of fabric, a pillowcase or tea towel, newspaper, or brown kraft paper.



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| 19 |    |    |    | 20 | 21 |    |    | 22 | 23 |    |    |    |    | 24 |    |
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| 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 |    |    |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 39 |    |    |    |    |    | 40 | 41 | 42 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 43 |    |    |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |    |    | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |    |
| 49 |    |    |    | 50 |    |    |    |    |    | 51 | 52 |    |    |    |    |
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| 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 | 62 |    |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Nocturnal S. American rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Happiness

16. Military branch

17. - \_\_, denotes past

18. Middle Eastern city

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to Pa

25. Percussion instrument

26. Popular computers

27. Decrease light

28. Valley in the Osh Region

29. "To \_\_ his own"

30. Absence of difficulty

31. Notice announcing intended marriage read out in church

33. Trims by cutting

34. Impact

38. Military member

39. A French river

40. Member of prehistoric people in Mexico

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. Musician Clapton

45. Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. Narrow valley

51. A way to disentangle

53. Indicates not an issue (abbr.)

54. Recommending

56. Genus of legumes

58. Friend to Larry and Curly

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Small Eurasian deer

64. Denoting passerine birds

65. Separate by category

4. Confirms a point

5. Developed over time

6. Not the leader

7. \_\_ Lang (country singer)

8. Adults need one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Antelopes

13. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)

14. Japanese three-stringed lute

15. Type of cat

20. Cools your home

21. The ancient Egyptian sun god

22. Pouches

23. Trigraph

27. Form of Persian spoken in Afghanistan

29. \_\_ route

30. Body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action committee

34. Tasty snack

35. Part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Pitching statistic

38. Of I

40. City in Utah

41. Football players in the trenches

42. Hammer is one

44. A "nightmarish" street

45. Performers

46. Slang for cut or scrape

47. More breathable

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home to college's Flyers

52. Sodium

54. Large fish of mackerel family

55. Zero

57. \_\_ and behold

61. The Palmetto State

62. Popular Tom Cruise movie franchise (abbr.)

- CLUES DOWN
1. Colorless fluid part of blood

2. Of a main artery

3. Photographic equipment

Answers on page 16



Bronze COSSA medal for Hawks


The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School junior boys volleyball team placed third at the COSSA championship tournament held on their home court on Thursday, Nov. 16. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo





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# Thirty-five years of Wednesday night ball

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

Each Wednesday at 7 p.m., individuals from all over the county gather in Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) gym for a night of pick-up basketball. Members of all ages lace up their shoes to participate in an evening of getting active, socializing and some friendly competition.

The drop-in program began in 1988, originally run by Dan LaPierre, the assistant coach of the HHSS boy's basketball team and former teacher at Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

LaPierre said the program started as a night for teachers to play basketball together, but he had the idea of opening it up to the rest of the community. "Since then, the program has migrated from adults who were eager to play to mostly youth in the community," LaPierre said. Though he and other folks who have helped keep the program running over the years still attend regularly.

"It's a great opportunity for youth to learn from more experienced players and improve their skills," LaPierre said. "We come to play, but we're also there to coach."

He added that it's also important to show youth that participating in sports doesn't have to stop after school. "It's something they can do for the rest of their lives," LaPierre said.

Afterwards LaPierre retired, the drop-in program was run by Paul Longo, former head coach of the senior boy's basketball team at HHSS. However, in 2021 the torch was passed on to someone new – a 26-year-old Hunter Smith, alumnus of the high school and their basketball team.



The Wednesday night basketball crew plays a game in the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School gym. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

Smith has been volunteering with the program for over five years and attending since he was in Grade 9. When Longo decided to pass along his responsibilities to someone new, Smith was a natural choice, and he's in it for the long-haul. "Hopefully I can keep running the program for the next 20 years," Smith said.

Smith noted that programs like this are extremely important in a small town like Haliburton. "A lot of kids here don't have access to extra curriculars or organized sports," he said, "So this is a great way for kids and adults to interact, have fun and stay fit."

Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment is clearly something Smith

is passionate about too. As participants entered the gym Smith greeted each by name and throughout the evening gave words of encouragement and game advice.

In addition to taking on the responsibility of organizing Wednesday night basketball, Smith also became the head coach of the senior boy's basketball team at HHSS last year.

"Coaching has always been something I've been interested in doing," Smith said. "Basketball has been a lifelong passion of mine and I've loved the new learning experiences that have come with being a coach."

He commented on how important



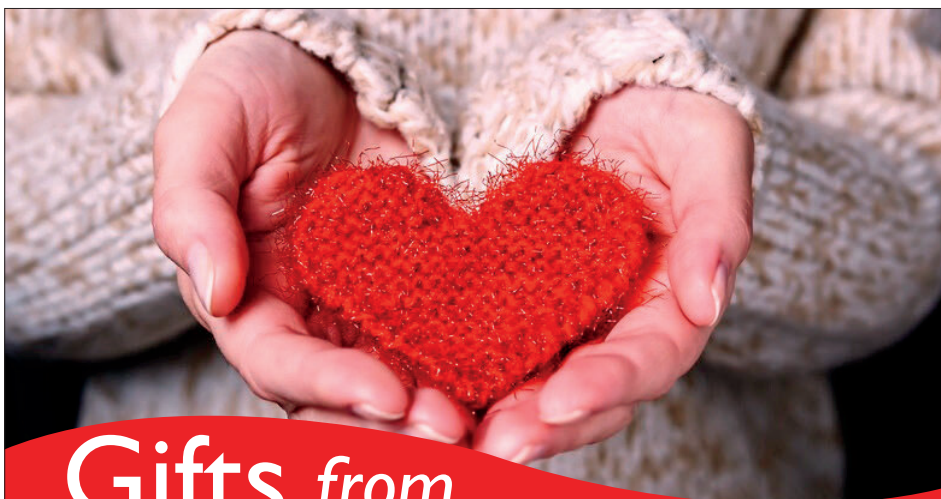
Hunter Smith is now the organizer of the longstanding tradition.

school-organized sports are, noting that it is a great way to make friends, get involved and stay active. "It was my favourite part about going to school," Smith said.

He has high hopes for this year's senior boy's basketball team, with a goal of winning Kawarthas and maybe COSSA too.

Smith is an exceptional example of the influence that youth involvement can have in the county, and how important it is for young people to continue traditions and programs that promote community wellness.

"I remember when I was in school, I had such an appreciation for the people who were coaching and running programs like this for me. It is such a passion for me now that I don't mind taking my time to give kids the same opportunities I was given," Smith said, "It's my way of giving back to Haliburton."



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**Municipality of Dysart et al**

**Notice of Special Meeting**

2024 Budget Projects and Priorities

Take notice that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on Friday, December 8, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss projects and priorities for the 2024 Budget. The Municipality has also set the following dates (if required) to review the Budget:

January 12, 2024 and February 9, 2024

These meetings will be livestreamed. You can view the proceedings by visiting the Dysart YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVWZxsvf8VCyD-f04uwjCJ6g>

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk

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**Tunes at Tipples**  
Local musician Nick Russell performed at Tipples North on Highland Street in Haliburton on Friday, Nov. 10 with his Standards Trio in front of a full crowd. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo

# Adoration for Legion Remembrance Day Art

community news  
west guilford  
Eleanor Cooper  
754-2278

Once again I am astounded at the Remembrance Day art samples displayed at the Legion. We of Canoe's staff and volunteers annual general meeting were impressed by the drawings which already showed that the students had got the point of Remembrance Day. Their teachers are to be commended.

Nov. 14 saw a significant number of participants at the pot luck for easy riders. Judging by the number of vehicles around the Centre the cyclers can anticipate a good return, weather permitting, on the bikes on the newly refurbished pavements.

Of course, the really big news is that George and Shirleen have moved here from North Bay.

At last report four deer at the Cooper Hunt Camp in the first week and two in the second. Favourable report on the weather for both weeks. During the second week Alan came over from Orillia joining the camp indoors to be on call for Shirleen still recovering from the broken leg sustained while moving from house to truck at the beginning of the hunt.

Where there's Alan there's music to be supplied entertainment with guitar and fiddle when chores were done. At home I managed to bake my Christmas cake.



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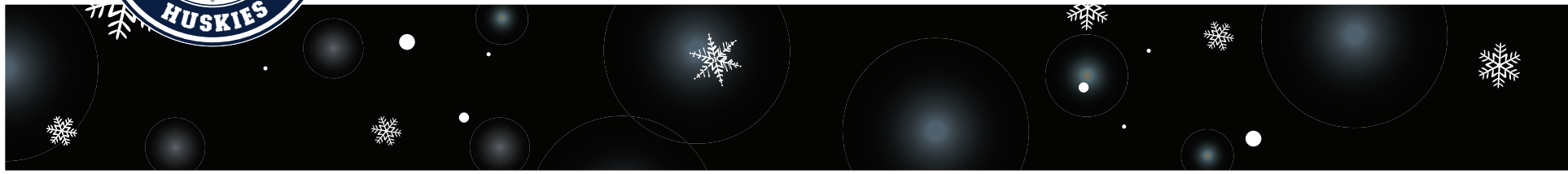


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## 650 OBITUARIES




*In Loving Memory of*  
**Pamela Adelle Morin (nee Howe)**

*Passed away peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 with her loving family by her side.*

Beloved wife of the late Paul Morin (June 13, 2023).  
Loving mother of Marc (Lindsay Grice) and Andrew (Colleen). Loving mamere to Madison, Colton, Miller and Alabama. Dear sister of Diane and Tom Dawson, aunt to Ryan and Kate (Andrew) and great aunt to Kinsley and Berkley. Lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

A Celebration of Pamela's Life will be held at the Wintergreen, 3325 Gelert Rd., Minden, Ontario on a date and time to be announced.

Memorial Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or Diabetes Canada or the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



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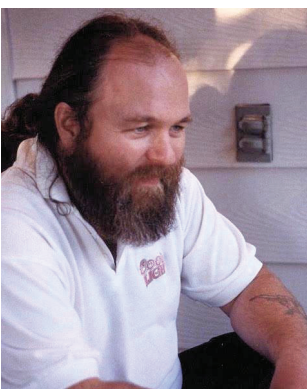
## 660 CARD OF THANKS

*Thank you  
from the family of Murray Austin*

We would like to thank the doctors, nurses, paramedics, and firemen, for their love and care throughout Murray's life. A special thank you to Dr. Hughes and Dr. Bob Hayes. Art Dawson for his weekly cribbage games. David and Phylis for your great food and card games. Alice, you were always there when we needed you. Jack, Jim and Bob for your great friendship and golf games. Dwain, Lori and Corley for your kindness and lovely place of celebration.

Murray was a Haliburton man and as a young boy his childhood home was beside the Bank of Montreal, but he spent 67 years of his married life on Riverside Dr. He enjoyed being a fireman and he enjoyed traveling. Most of all he loved being in the Haliburton Highlands.

*Love, Betty, Elizabeth and Katherine*

**Ross Douglas Penhale**  
*(Resident of Haliburton)*

Ross passed away quietly and comfortably at Haliburton Hospital on Friday morning, November 10, 2023. He was in his 67th year. Sadly missed by siblings Sandra Wheeler, Grant (Carole), Wendy, and Delma Williamson (D-John). Predeceased by his parents, Gloria Penhale and Jack Penhale, and by his younger sister, Susan Currie. Fondly remembered by his Aunt Joan and Uncle Gordon Thomson, and by his many cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and by long-time buddy John Currie.

During his younger years, Ross was an Ironworker (Local 721) in Toronto and worked at Dixon Hall Youth Center. He was proud and passionate about Hockey (Go, Leafs, Go!), Harleys (the bigger the better), and his '69 Beaumont and '82 Camaro. He liked fishing and cottaging (especially at Paradise Lake), and dogs Reefer, Bandit, and Scruffy. Ross won first prize singing karaoke to David Lee Roth's *Just a Gigolo*, and always sang along with ZZ-Top, Neil Young's *Harvest Moon*, and Rod Stewart's *Hot Legs*. Ross was quite a character and surely will be missed.

Thank you to Dr. Bottum, the Nursing Staff at HHHS, and the Pharmaceutical Team at Rexall, Haliburton.

A celebratory get-together will be held at a future date. Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.



# Hockley

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■ **BIG SMILES:** Historic game for Hawks

■ **LUCKY:** No injuries after car falls on man

■ **CHRISTMAS:** Special section inside

The  
Haliburton  
County

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009

# ECHO

www.haliburtonecho.ca

Vol. 126 No. 52 \$1.35 INCL. GST

Publications mail agreement # 40063862

## COMMUNITY CARE Seniors' services suffered in storm

ANGELICA BLENICH

Staff reporter

The storm that pounded the county with record-breaking amounts of snow may be over, but things are just beginning to get back to normal for some of the businesses and services throughout the community.

For Community Care, an organization focused on providing services to seniors and those with disabilities, the large amount of snow that arrived in the county meant more than just a strenuous workout to shovel the driveway.

"Obviously a lot of transportation services were cancelled," says Judy Cumming, transportation coordinator for Community Care. "This happened over a three-day period leading up to Friday and not just on the last day of the storm."

According to Cumming, however, those who depend on the vital services

See **Weather** page 23

ANGELICA BLENICH/Echo



### Christmas in the Carribean

Hannah Huffman, a junior kindergarten student, gets right into the Caribbean spirit at the Wilberforce Elementary School Christmas concert Dec. 15 with her sunglasses and Little Mermaid bathing suit. More photos on page 22.

### DYSART FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fire chief given prestigious award

TERRANCE GAVAN

Staff reporter

Long-time Dysart fire chief Miles

Maughan was hard at work under a blanket of steam Dec. 14 at the Haliburton curling club.

The blanket of steam didn't have anything to do with a fire emergency;

Maughan was simply taking a shift at the large industrial dishwasher during the firefighters' annual Christmas party.

See **'It was** page 27

Merry Christmas  
And Happy New Year!

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Nov. 22 - Canned Tuna  
Nov. 23 - Dessert Mix  
Nov. 24 - Jar of Applesauce  
Nov. 25 - Canned Potatoes

Nov. 26 - Cranberry Sauce  
Nov. 27 - Canned Baked Beans  
Nov. 28 - Box of Crackers

\*For every item donated, your name will be entered into a draw to win a Holiday Prize!  
\*Drop off your donations to our office at 191 Highland St. Suite 102



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| <p>KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE<br/>\$1,799,000</p>  <p>2.57 ACRES 188 FT. FRONTAGE</p> <p>MLS# 40485914</p> | <p>KENNISIS LAKE<br/>\$1,675,000</p>  <p>4 X BED 3 X BATH</p> <p>MLS# 404669724</p>                   | <p>GELERT ROAD<br/>\$1,639,000</p>  <p>EXCLUSIVE LISTING<br/>3 X BED 3 X BATH</p> <p>MLS# 40499725</p> | <p>HALBIEM CRESCENT<br/>\$1,099,000</p>  <p>3 X BED 4 X BATH</p> <p>MLS# 40470892</p>          |
| <p>HALIBURTON LAKE<br/>\$999,000</p>  <p>169 ACRES SOUTHWEST EXPOSURE</p> <p>MLS# 40424313</p>    | <p>MIRROR LAKE<br/>\$749,500</p>  <p>SOUTHWEST EXPOSURE 197.4 FT. FRONTAGE</p> <p>MLS# 40474802</p> | <p>ABLETT COURT<br/>\$719,000</p>  <p>RIVERFRONT LAKE ACCESS 3 X BED</p> <p>MLS# 40500660</p>        | <p>SALERNO LAKE ROAD<br/>\$449,500</p>  <p>2.76 ACRES OFF GRID</p> <p>MLS# 40487128</p>      |
| <p>PARK STREET<br/>\$399,000</p>  <p>4 X BED 2 X BATH</p> <p>MLS# 40495388</p>                    | <p>BETHEL ROAD<br/>\$195,000</p>  <p>330 FT. FRONTAGE 24.65 ACRES</p> <p>MLS# 40476956</p>          | <p>HADLINGTON ROAD<br/>\$159,000</p>  <p>400 FT. FRONTAGE 10.32 ACRES</p> <p>MLS# 40482574</p>       | <p>COUNTY RD. 121<br/>\$139,000</p>  <p>265 FT. FRONTAGE 1.77 ACRES</p> <p>MLS# 40474702</p> |
| <p>KERNOHAN FARM TRAIL<br/>\$137,500</p>  <p>150 FT. FRONTAGE 1.12 ACRES</p> <p>MLS# 40472855</p> | <p>HWY 35<br/>\$549,000</p>  <p>MLS# 40463263</p>   | <p>PORTAGE LAKE<br/>\$475,000</p>  <p>MLS# 40505077</p>  | <p>BRADY LAKE ROAD<br/>\$210,000</p>  <p>MLS# 40465659</p>                                   |
| <p>DILLMAN TRAIL<br/>\$99,000</p>  <p>MLS# 40463926</p>   | <p>EASTERN AVE<br/>\$385,000</p>  <p>MLS 40465659</p>   |    |   |

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